



This pack has been developed to help promote VHHITAL education and training courses and other opportunities across Victoria.

Quarterly education and training calendar

Please add our quarterly calendar of training sessions to your newsletters and social media calendars. Details of all statewide training can be found on our [BBV/STI education and events calendar](#).

Training topic	Training dates – April to June 2024	
Working with Sex Workers: Health and Wellbeing under Decriminalisation	Monday, 8 April 2024	12pm – 2pm
	Wednesday, 24 April 2024	6pm – 8pm
Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course	Tuesdays 16, 23 and 30 April 2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Treatment of Antimicrobial Resistant STIs: Mycoplasma Genitalium, Gonorrhoea and Others	Thursday, 16 May 2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm
STI Community of Practice	Tuesday, 4 June 2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Hepatitis C for Nurses and Midwives	Wednesday, 12 and Thursday, 13 June 2024	4pm – 7pm
Syphilis Advanced for Primary Care	Thursday, 20 June 2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm

Social media and newsletters

VHHITAL is using the VTPHNA social channels to promote all events – please share the posts where possible. We have provided social media tiles and suggested copy for your newsletters and social media below.

Social tags

- Facebook: [@vtphna](#), [@mshc.org.au](#), [@StVincentHospitalMelb](#), [@TheAlfredHospital](#), [@VixenCollective](#), [@burnetinstitute](#)
- LinkedIn: [@victorian-tasmanian-phn-alliance](#), [@melbourne-sexual-health-centre](#), [@svhm](#), [@burnet-institute-for-medical-research-and-public-health](#)
- Twitter/X: [@MSHCRResearch](#), [@StVHealthAust](#), [@AlfredHealth](#), [@BurnetInstitute](#)

Where to go for VHHITAL information

You can find all our course information, including members of faculty, and other opportunities on our [website](#).

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1. Working with Sex Workers: Health and Wellbeing under Decriminalisation

Suggested newsletter copy

The Sex Work Decriminalisation Act 2022 (VIC) is an essential step in ensuring better health and human rights outcomes for sex workers. However, despite the law now recognizing sex work as legitimate work, the long history of stigma, discrimination and criminalisation of sex work is still a barrier to accessing health care including primary health, mental health and alcohol and other drug services.

This education session will support all primary health care workers, including mental health and alcohol and other drugs professionals, in understanding their responsibilities under the new legislation and equip them with the knowledge and confidence needed to provide best practice health care to all patients, whether sex work status has been disclosed or not.

Upcoming sessions

- [Monday, 8 April 2024, 12pm – 2pm](#)
- [Wednesday, 24 April 2024, 6pm – 8pm](#)

CPD: 2 x RACGP CPD Educational Activity hours. All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Suggested social media copy

- *"It was an excellent session with highly skilled and knowledgeable presenters."*
- *"Expectations were by far exceeded. Engaging and informative presentation."*
- *"Thank you for encouraging me to be a better clinician!"*

Hear from sex workers with diverse identities and experiences, ask questions and access ad hoc resources and network in our CPD-approved training sessions.

This training is co-designed by Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training and Learning (VHHITAL) program and @Vixen Collective, Victoria's peer-only sex worker organisation and is funded by the Victorian Department of Health.

Register:

- [Monday, 8 April 2024, 12pm – 2pm](#)
- [Wednesday, 24 April 2024, 6pm – 8pm](#)



2. Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course

Suggested newsletter copy

Do your patients have chronic hepatitis B? Become an s100 prescriber.

Register for our advanced online course, 3 sessions over 3-weeks, and learn from our faculty of specialist presenters: Professor Ben Cowie from @Doherty Institute, @Royal Melbourne Hospital, Dr Nicole Allard from @cohealth and Dr Lester Mascarenhas, @Utopia Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health. This training is for GPs and nurse practitioners.

Date: Tuesday, 16 April – 30 April 2024

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Format: Online (over 3 weeks)

CPD: 6 x RACGP CPD Educational Activity, 3.5 x Reviewing Performance hours

Register: <https://bit.ly/4c4h54X>

Suggested social media copy

"Excellent course! Speakers were relevant, easy to understand. Material was concise and easy to refer to."

GPs and practice nurses: register for our advanced online Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course and learn from our faculty of specialist presenters: Professor Ben Cowie, Dr Nicole Allard and Dr Lester Mascarenhas over 3 weeks, Tuesday 16 April – 30 April 2024: <https://bit.ly/4c4h54X>



3. Treatment of Antimicrobial Resistant STIs: Mycoplasma Genitalium, Gonorrhoea and Others

Both mycoplasma genitalium (MG) and gonorrhoea are relatively common in Australia. Both STIs have developed anti-microbial resistance in recent years, rendering them increasingly difficult to treat. Hosted by the Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training and Learning (VHHITAL) program, this course will delve into treating evolving drug resistant STIs, including gonorrhoea and MG.

The session will be presented by @MelbourneSexualHealthCentre physician Dr Melanie Bissessor on Thursday, 16 May 2024.

Date: Thursday, 16 May 2024

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Format: Online

CPD: 2 x RACGP CPD Educational Activity hours. All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3T8WC6q>

Suggested social media copy

Both mycoplasma genitalium (MG) and gonorrhoea are relatively common in Australia. Both STIs have developed anti-microbial resistance in recent years, rendering them increasingly difficult to treat.

STIs can cause severe health problems if left undiagnosed and untreated. Don't miss your spot. Register for this online session with Dr Melanie Bissessor from @MHSC on 16 May 2024: <https://bit.ly/3T8WC6q>



4. Statewide STI Community of Practice

Join our statewide STI community of practice

This is an opportunity for GPs and nurses interested in deepening their understanding of STIs to meet experts, discuss complex cases, ask questions, seek advice, and provide peer support. The STI community of practice (CoP) is relevant for practitioners across Victoria. Dr Melanie Bissessor, sexual health physician at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, will facilitate the session online on Tuesday, 4 June 2024.

The STI CoP is run in collaboration with the @Melbourne Sexual Health Centre.

Do you have an interesting case or topic to discuss?

Practitioners are encouraged to submit interesting or complex cases and topics prior to the webinar.
Email: vhhital@nwmphn.org.au

Examples include:

- syphilis staging and treatment
- complex cases with *Mycoplasma genitalium* or drug resistance
- co-infections.

Session details:

Date: Tuesday, 4 June 2024

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

CPD: 2 x RACGP CPD Educational Activity hours

Register: <https://bit.ly/48JCMVj>

Suggested social media copy

"It provided me with a very good framework of knowledge!"

GPs and practice nurses: Would you like to join other experts to share knowledge on sexually transmitted infections? Join our statewide community of practice with @Melbourne Sexual Health Centre on 4 June to discuss complex cases, ask questions, seek advice, and provide peer support. Register here: <https://bit.ly/48JCMVj>



5. Hepatitis C for Nurses and Midwives

The aim of this online training course, developed by nurses, for nurses and midwives, is to upskill and support nurses to assist clients who may be at risk of or living with hepatitis C access appropriate treatment and care.

Date: Wednesday, 12 June and Thursday, 13 June 2024

Time: 4pm – 7pm

CPD: 6.5 hours

Register: <https://bit.ly/3T9qVd8>

Suggested social media copy

Nurses and midwives: Build your knowledge and confidence in screening and managing hepatitis C in your practice. Don't miss your spot. Register for this two-part online training course on Wednesday, 12 June and Thursday, 13 June 2024 with Dr Jacqui Richmond, @Burnett Institute.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3T9qVd8>



6. Syphilis Advanced Webinar for Primary Care

Short news item

Victoria has seen a 476% increase in syphilis cases since 2010, with a record 1671 cases reported in 2019.

This course, facilitated by Dr Melanie Bissessor, sexual health physician at @MSHC, builds on VHHITAL's STI Essentials for Primary Care course and will provide you with the skills and resources to confidently implement guideline-based management of patients diagnosed with syphilis and to improve patient outcomes.

Date: Thursday, 20 June 2024

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

CPD: 2 x RACGP CPD Educational Activity hours. All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Register: <https://bit.ly/4c3SL3i>

Suggested social media copy

GPs and practice nurses: Would you like to join other experts to share knowledge on syphilis treatment and management in Victoria?

Register for our Syphilis Advanced Webinar for Primary Care with Dr Melanie Bissessor from @Melbourne Sexual Health Centre to discuss complex cases, ask questions, seek advice, and provide peer support on 20 June 2024.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4c3SL3i>